

SENATE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE

2009

Senator Jeff Mullis, 53rd, Chairman
212 English Avenue
Chickamauga, GA 30707

Senator Steve Thompson, 33rd
1170 Longwood Drive
Marietta, GA 30008

Senator Chip Pearson, 51st, Vice-Chairman
P.O. Box 209
Dawsonville, GA 30534

Senator Ross Tolleson, 20th
P.O. Box 1356
Perry, GA 31069

Senator Bill Jackson, 24th, Secretary
P.O. Box 528
Appling, GA 30802

Senator John Douglas, 17th
295 Nicklaus Circle
Social Circle, GA 30025

Senator Greg Goggans, 7th, Ex-Officio
1300 Hampton Road
Douglas, GA 31533

Senator Bill Heath, 31st, Ex-Officio
2225 Cashtown Road
Bremen, GA 30110

Senator Judson Hill, 32nd, Ex-Officio
3102 Raines Court
Marietta, GA 30062

Senator Kasim Reed, 35th
1755 Loch Lomond Trail
Atlanta, GA 30331

Senator Valencia Seay, 34th
P.O. Box 960008
Riverdale, GA 30274

Senator Cecil Staton, 18th
P.O. Box 26427
Macon, GA 31221

Senator Doug Stoner, 6th
P.O. Box 1781
Smyrna, GA 30081

Senate Transportation Committee
Rules
2009-2010

- 1) All meetings of the Committee shall be open to the public in accordance with Senate Rule [1-5.1].
- 2) The quorum for the Transportation Committee shall be five (5) members.
- 3) A bill, resolution, or other matter will be considered only after presentation by its principal author or legislator whom he or she designates to do so. In the event that more than one member of the General Assembly has signed a measure, the principal author shall be the one whose name appears first in the list of authors.
- 4) The Committee shall convene, recess, and adjourn upon order of the Chairman.
- 5) The Chairman shall determine which bills, amendments, and resolutions are to be considered and the order in which measures are considered.
- 6) The Chairman shall have sole authority to refer bills and resolutions to subcommittees for study. Such subcommittees, in turn, shall have the authority to make recommendations on such measures to the full Committee. All actions of any subcommittee shall be approved or disapproved by the standing Committee.
- 7) These Rules may be amended or waived upon motion made and subsequently approved by a majority of the members of the Committee present at the meeting.
- 8) The Secretary of the Committee will have a copy of these rules distributed to all members of the Senate.
- 9) The recording of the minutes of the Committee and the Subcommittee shall comply with Senate Rule [2-1.7(d)].
- 10) The Rules of the Senate shall prevail in all matters not covered by Committee Rules.
- 11) Bills and resolutions, at the option of the Chairman, may be acted on at the first reading.
- 12) The Senate Transportation Committee has adopted rules for road naming/dedication Ch. 3, Pg. 7; Rule (3-4.01).

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

January 26, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on January 26, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Seay of the 34th, Staton of the 18th, Stoner of the 6th, Thompson of the 33rd, and Tolleson of the 20th.

Chairman Mullis welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the 2009 legislative session. The adoption of the Committee Rules was the first order of business. The Chairman asked everyone to review the rules and after review, if there were no objections, he'd ask for someone to entertain a motion to adopt the Rules.

Senator Steve Thompson asked that the rules be changed under rule #7 to reflect that a motion carry in committee based on the majority of members "present at the meeting." Senator Goggans moved that the Committee adopt the Rules as amended, and with a second from Senator Steve Thompson, the motion carried unanimously.

The Chairman announced that he was creating three subcommittees to perfect policy regarding Transportation. They are as follows:

Airports & Seaports – Members include Staton of the 18th as Sub-committee Chairman, Pearson of the 51st, Seay of the 34th, and Tolleson of the 20th.

Roads & Bridges – Members include Douglas of the 17th as Sub-committee Chairman, Jackson of the 24th, Thompson of the 33rd, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, and Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio.

Intermodal, Rail & Transit – Members include Stoner of the 6th as Sub-committee Chairman, Reed of the 35th, Staton of the 18th, and Hill of the 32nd Ex-Officio.

Chairman Mullis also stated that he was excited to note that the Senate had 43 signatures of support for the T-Splost bill and that he was hopeful we would pass it this year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Mullis 53rd, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

January 28, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on January 28, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Vice Chairman Pearson called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Jackson of the 24th Secretary, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio, Hill of the 32nd Ex-Officio, Reed of the 35th, Seay of the 34th, Staton of the 18th, Stoner of the 6th, Thompson of the 33rd, and Tolleson of the 20th.

SB 19 (Shafer, 48th) *Road/Tollway Authority; contracts with GDOT*

Senator Shafer presented the bill. Current law grants the State Road and Tollway Authority (SRTA) certain powers and duties. Under this legislation, SRTA now has the power to enter into intergovernmental agreements with the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the better management of their respective finances, including, without limitation: Construction contracts under which SRTA agrees to provide contingent financing for projects by promising to borrow and provide money to DOT as and when needed to expend on projects that are the subjects of design and construction contracts which DOT may reasonably expect to finance through future finances derived from other sources. The Committee Substitute added language stating that the referenced construction contracts also include the design contracts.

Senator Shafer stated that he is relying on the 2000 Attorney General Opinion (there was also one published in the 1970s) that holds that contracts between agencies are not subject to the cash-accounting principle. Senator Steve Thompson stated that he will ask for a new AG Opinion.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner, Gena Evans, was in the audience and Senator Pearson asked her if the DOT was ok with the bill and she said "yes."

Senator Reed moved that **SB 19 Do Pass by Substitute** and Senator Steve Thompson seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 19 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

NOTE: Chairman Mullis arrived at 1:20 p.m.

SB 22 (Stoner, 6th) *Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation; establish*

Senator Stoner presented the bill. Tom Bauer, Georgia Transit Association, also spoke on behalf of the bill. The purpose of this legislation (Committee Substitute) is to coordinate programs that provide rural and human service transportation services across the state. This legislation creates the Georgia Coordinating Council for Rural and Human Services Transportation (Council), to be composed of the State School Superintendent and the Commissioners of the Department of Transportation, Department of Human Resources, Department of Community Health, and Department of Labor. The Commissioner of DOT will serve as chairperson of the Council.

Among other duties, the Council will review any limitations which may be imposed on various federally-funded programs and how the state can manage within those limitations as they review possible sharing opportunities. The original bill was more specific and required the Council to review the federally-imposed limitations and how they might be overcome through shared capital purchases. The Committee Substitute also adds an additional duty to analyze possible methods to reduce costs including greater use of privatization. The Council will submit an annual report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor, Speaker, and Chairman of the Health and Human Services Committees.

Senator Douglas questioned the fiscal impact of the bill. Senator Stoner responded that it will not cost the state anything because the agencies are required to sit down and determine how best to use the federal money that each one receives (\$2 million); therefore, the federal money will be used as the resource. Expenses for participating members, other than travel or per diem, will be borne by the Department of Transportation.

Senator Steve Thompson moved that **SB 22 Do Pass By Substitute** and Senator Reed seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 22 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

SR 44 (Mullis, 53rd) Tax; regional local option transportation tax-CA

Chairman Mullis presented the resolution. This legislation proposes a Constitutional Amendment that will authorize the General Assembly to provide, by general law, for a one percent regional sales and use tax for a specified period of time to fund transportation projects. Senator Douglas pointed out that it will not be until 2012 (on the ballot in November 2010, counties can hold referendum for SPLOST in Spring 2011, collect money in 2012) that we will see any money. Senator Mullis stated that we have to start doing something now.

Those who signed up in favor of the resolution are Matt Hicks, ACCG; and Tom Gehl, GMA.

Senator Staton moved that **SR 44 Do Pass** and Senator Steve Thompson seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

SR 44 DO PASS

SB 39 (Mullis, 53rd) Taxes; provide for a 1% sales tax; transportation projects in special transportation districts within the state

Chairman Mullis presented the bill. This legislation provides for a one percent sales tax to be used to fund transportation projects in transportation districts (District) on or after January 1, 2011. Transportation projects must be consistent with any state-wide strategic transportation plan adopted by the General Assembly.

Two types of transportation Districts are created: (1) A metropolitan transportation District encompassing the current geographical area of the Atlanta Regional Commission; and (2) special transportation Districts, which can be created by two or more contiguous counties (with concurring resolutions of the major cities) not part of the metropolitan transportation District, or by the governing authority of a single county.

Most of the discussion centered on the fact that any county can opt out of the District, with the potential to kill a transportation project. Also discussed was a concern that the tax will not apply to motor fuel. Other discussions centered on the amendments.

Those who signed up in favor of the bill are Joe Fleming, Georgia Chamber; Chuck Meadows, Metro Atlanta Chamber; Terry Chastain, Get Georgia Moving; Matt Hicks, ACCG; Tom Gehl, GMA; and Tom Bauer, Georgia Transit Association.

Amendment #1, offered by Senator Judson Hill, to ensure that the projects will not be subject to review by the Georgia Regional Transportation Authority (GRTA). GRTA is currently required, as the Governor's representative, to review and approve the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).

Amendment #2, offered by Senator Stoner, language mistakenly not included in the Committee Substitute. Language in the original bill provided that the tax would only be levied on the first \$5,000 of any transaction. Senator Stoner offered this amendment and qualified the amendment so that the tax will only be levied on the first \$5,000 of any transaction of any motor vehicle and aircraft.

Amendment #3, offered by Senator Heath, to qualify Senator Stoner's amendment by adding aircraft to the list of transactions.

Senator Douglas moved that **Amendments 1, 2, and 3, Do Pass** and Senator Steve Thompson seconded. The amendments passed unanimously and will be added to the committee substitute.

Senator Steve Thompson moved that **SB 39 Do Pass by Substitute** and Senator Douglas seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 39 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Senator Pearson at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Bill Jackson 24th, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

February 4, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on February 4, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Members present included Senators Jackson of the 24th, Secretary, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio, Reed of the 35th, Seay of the 34th, Staton of the 18th, Stoner of the 6th, Thompson of the 33rd, and Tolleson of the 20th.

SB 51 (Stoner, 6th) Georgia Rail Passenger Authority; allow for indemnification of private parties; revise composition of the membership

Senator Stoner presented the bill. Revises membership and expands powers of the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority. The Authority will be composed of 7 members: 3 members appointed by the Governor; 2 members appointed by the Speaker; and 2 members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor. Powers now include those that private corporations hold, such as purchasing all kinds of insurance.

Senator Tolleson moved that **SB 51 Do Pass** and Senator Staton seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 51 DO PASS

NOTE: Senators Seay & Steve Thompson arrived at 1:12 p.m.

SB 85 (Heath, 31st) Georgia Aviation Authority Act; create; provide for membership, governance, operation, power, duties

Senator Heath presented the bill. Jeff Strain, Director of Implementation for Commission for a New Georgia, also spoke on behalf of the bill. Creates the Georgia Aviation Authority. Will be composed of the Governor; Lt. Governor; Speaker; Commissioners of Transportation, Public Safety, and Natural Resources; Director of the Georgia Forestry Commission; 2 people from the aviation industry (one appointed by the Speaker and one appointed by the President of the Senate). The Authority will acquire, house, operate, and dispose of all aviation assets, as well as provide aviation services to all state agencies.

This bill passed the Senate last Session but failed in the House. Senator Heath stated that issues with the House Public Safety Chairman have been worked out and the Chairman is committed to the legislation. Senator Steve Thompson questioned whether the priority levels have changed. They have not; emergency missions are still the number one priority.

Senator Tolleson moved that **SB 85 Do Pass** and Senator Jackson seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 85 DO PASS

NOTE: Senator Douglas arrived at 1:21 p.m.

SR 117 (Mullis, 53rd) **Transportation, Georgia Dept. of; urged to build a maglev train to be known as the "The Plane Train"**

Chairman Mullis presented the resolution. Urges Georgia DOT to support a maglev train connecting Hartsfield-Jackson Airport in Atlanta along Interstate 75 with the Chattanooga Municipal Airport (Lowell Field). State money will not be used for development of the maglev train.

The Chairman offered an amendment to change the urge to include “support” instead of “build” on line 1 and to insert “Northwest Georgia” before political subdivision on line 6. Senators Douglas and Seay expressed concern that this only applies to the area northwest of Atlanta.

Senator Mullis moved that the amendment be adopted, and Senator Jackson seconded. The amendment was adopted unanimously.

Senator Seay moved that **SR 117 Do Pass By Substitute** and Senator Jackson seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

SR 117 DO PASS BY SUSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Bill Jackson 24th, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Transportation Committee**

February 11, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on February 11, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Jackson of the 24th Secretary, Douglas of the 17th, Seay of the 34th, Stoner of the 6th, Thompson of the 33rd, and Tolleson of the 20th.

SB 120 (Stoner, 6th) **MARTA; allow a transportation services contract to authorize the extension of/addition to the Authority's existing rapid rail system**

Senator Stoner presented the bill. Amends Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Act of 1965 (local law) to remove restriction that prohibits MARTA from using more than 50 percent of the proceeds from the one percent sales and use tax to subsidize operating costs. Present at the meeting in support of the bill are Scott Haggard and Mavis Allen from MARTA.

Senator Seay moved that **SB 120 Do Pass** and Senator Steve Thompson seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

SB 120 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Bill Jackson 24th, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

February 17, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on February 17, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Members present included Senators Jackson of the 24th Secretary, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio, Hill of the 32nd Ex-Officio, Seay of the 34th, Stoner of the 6th, Thompson of the 33rd, and Tolleson of the 20th.

SB 164 (Balfour, 9th) *State Highway System; signs and signals; height limitations; allow owners to obtain permits to remove vegetation from the viewing zones*

Senator Balfour presented the bill. This bill is a compromise between the parties relating to the control of signs and signals on the state highway system, so as to provide for certain height limitations on such signs; to allow owners of legally erected and maintained signs to obtain permits to remove vegetation from the viewing zones of their signs if certain specified conditions are met. Adam Webb, Attorney for the Outdoor Advertising Association of GA (OAAG) spoke about legal additions to the Committee Substitute in relation to information for the DOT, height of signs, and ongoing maintenance of wildflowers for the life of the permit for the sign.

NOTE: Senators Heath & Goggans arrived at 1:23 p.m.

Senator Steve Thompson is concerned about whether the conditions of the bill will actually be met. He plans to introduce several floor amendments. There was also some concern over how much of the \$4000.00 vegetation fee will actually go to the Beautification Fund.

In support of the bill are Reggie Dickey, GA Hunting and Fishing Federation; Don Plunkett, Plunkett Commercial Properties; Joe Fleming, GA Chamber; Mary Thompson, on behalf of GA citizens and the advertising industry; and Adam Web, OAAG. In opposition to the bill are Mary Lovings, Garden Club of GA; Neill Herring, Sierra Club; and Jill Johnson, GA Conservation Voters.

NOTE: Senator Judson Hill arrived at 1:45 p.m.

Senator Douglas moved that an amendment be added to the committee substitute to exclude advertising copy benefiting charitable, non-profit, or religious groups from the definition of "abandoned sign" on page 3, line 96. Tolleson seconded and the amendment passed with one nay vote from Senator Steve Thompson.

Senator Heath moved that **SB 164 Do Pass by Substitute** and Senator Stoner seconded. The bill passed with one nay vote from Senator Steve Thompson.

SB 164 DO PASS BY SUSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Bill Jackson 24th, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

February 24, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on February 24, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Jackson of the 24th Secretary, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio, Reed of the 35th, Seay of the 34th, Staton of the 18th, Stoner of the 6th, Thompson of the 33rd, and Tolleson of the 20th.

Chairman Mullis explained that this meeting will be a *hearing only* of SB 200 due to the complex nature of the bill.

NOTE: Senator Seay arrived at 2:17 p.m.

SB 200 (Williams, 19th) *Transforming Transportation Investment Act; create State Transportation Agency; definitions; purposes; abolish State Road/Tollway Authority*

Senator Williams presented the bill. Known as the Transforming Transportation Investment Act, this legislation would transfer all functions, duties, obligations of SRTA and GRTA to the newly created State Transportation Authority (administer federal funds) and mirror State Transportation Agency (administer state funds, motor fuel taxes). Every four years, the Authority will develop the State-wide Strategic Transportation Plan (Plan) and allocation formulas to ensure proper distribution of moneys from the funds. Every year, the Authority will make budget requests and submit a prioritized projects list to the Governor and General Assembly for appropriations.

NOTE: Senator Jackson arrived at 2:33 p.m.

Discussion centered on congressional balancing, public private initiatives, design build versus low bids, and road projects. There was a question as to whether this would eliminate the DOT Board, and Senator Williams assured the committee it would not eliminate the board but change some of their responsibilities. Senator Williams offered to meet with anyone wishing to discuss the bill further so that they could work out any issues with the bill before it came to a vote.

NOTE: Chairman Mullis left at 2:39 p.m.;
Senators Douglas & Heath left at 2:50 p.m.;
Senator Staton left at 3:01 p.m.

In opposition to the bill was Neill Herring, Sierra Club. Though they didn't state whether opposed or for the bill, Tom Weyandt, ARC; Matt Hicks, ACCG; and Tom Gehl, GMA signed up to speak to the committee. Because the discussion of the committee had already lasted an hour, those signed up to speak were asked to come to the next meeting and told they would be allowed 3 minutes each.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Senator Jackson at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Bill Jackson 24th, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

February 25, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on February 25, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 2:56 p.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Jackson of the 24th Secretary, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio, Hill of the 32nd Ex-Officio, Reed of the 35th, Seay of the 34th, Staton of the 18th, Stoner of the 6th, Thompson of the 33rd, and Tolleson of the 20th.

SB 200 (Williams, 19th) *Transforming Transportation Investment Act; create State Transportation Agency; definitions; purposes; abolish State Road/Tollway Authority*

Senator Williams presented the bill. Known as the Transforming Transportation Investment Act, this legislation would transfer all functions, duties, obligations of SRTA and GRTA to the newly created State Transportation Authority (administer federal funds) and mirror State Transportation Agency (administer state funds, motor fuel taxes). Every four years, the Authority will develop the State-wide Strategic Transportation Plan (Plan) and allocation formulas to ensure proper distribution of moneys from the funds. Every year, the Authority will make budget requests and submit a prioritized projects list to the Governor and General Assembly for appropriations.

Neill Herring, Sierra Club, spoke in opposition to the bill. Tad Liethead, ARC spoke in favor of the bill. Both Matt Hicks, ACCG; and Tom Gehl, GMA, spoke in support of the bill but voiced some concerns.

NOTE: Senator Reed arrived at 3:20 p.m.

Senator Pearson asked questions as to why we want to create a new entity rather than correct the current system. Senator Williams felt it best to start fresh with a new authority. Senator Reed expressed concern that the bill allows the Authority to prescribe, by rule/regulation, for alternative delivery methods other than low-bid, such as design-build, etc. Senator Williams believes that the Authority should have that option.

NOTE: Senator Steve Thompson left at 3:45 p.m.

Senators Seay and Stoner both expressed concerns that we are not ready and that they haven't had enough time to review such a complicated piece of legislation. Senator Seay moved that SB 200 be tabled and Stoner seconded. The motion failed, with a vote along party lines.

Amendment #1 offered by Senator Williams: pg. 48, lines 1659-1660, remove the words "State Transportation Fund" to ensure that the local governments will receive no less than 25 percent of the proceeds of motor fuel tax in the local grants program.

Senator Heath moved that **Amendment #1 Do Pass** and Senator Judson Hill seconded. The amendment passed unanimously.

Amendment #2 offered by Senator Douglas: pg. 40, lines 1372 and 1374. Add language so that the members appointed by the Lieutenant Governor and the Governor will be ratified by the Senate. Further, the amendment adds that appointments by the Lieutenant Governor, Governor, and Speaker will be ratified in five legislative days.

Senator Douglas moved that **Amendment #2 Do Pass** and Senator Pearson seconded. The amendment passed with one nay vote from Senator Heath.

Chairman Mullis asked if there were any further comments or questions. He also told the committee that he thought the bill would continue to be perfected throughout the entire legislative process. Senator Williams offered yesterday, and again is willing to meet with anyone who would like to discuss concerns or thoughts on how to perfect the bill.

Senator Heath moved that **SB 200 Do Pass by Substitute**, and Senator Judson Hill seconded. The bill passed with three nay votes by Senators Reed, Seay, and Stoner.

SB 200 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by Chairman Mullis at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Bill Jackson 24th, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

March 4, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on March 4, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio, Seay of the 34th, Staton of the 18th, Stoner of the 6th, and Thompson of the 33rd.

Chairman Mullis invited Gerald Ross, Interim Commissioner for the Department of Transportation (GDOT) to speak regarding the Federal Economic Stimulus Package. Senators Steve Thompson, Staton, and Douglas asked general questions.

NOTE: Senators Seay and Stoner arrived at 1:20 p.m.
Senator Goggans left at 1:28 p.m.

SB 212 (Stoner, 6th) *Labor; provide standards for motor common/contract carriers transporting railroad employees*

Senator Stoner presented the bill. The legislation creates standards for railroad (RR) motor common and contract carriers. Joel Herrell, Norfolk-Southern, raised two concerns: (1) The bill doesn't address carriers operating in the fringe areas of the state that transport from out-of-state; and (2) The bill is aimed at RR and RR employees – it should apply to all carriers. Senator Heath stated that these standards could be provided for in contract, without the need for legislation. Senator Stoner responded that this bill closes a loop-hole in the law – businesses currently only do the minimum required.

Senator Seay moved that **SB 212 Do Pass** and Senator Steve Thompson seconded. The bill passed with one nay vote from Senator Heath.

SB 212 DO PASS

NOTE: Senator Pearson arrived at 1:49 p.m.

SR 295 (Stoner, 6th) *Strategic Deployment-Distribution Corridor Network; requesting the implementation*

Senator Stoner presented the resolution. The legislation encourages agencies to collaborate in the development of the Strategic-Deployment Distribution Network.

Senator Heath moved that **SR 295 Do Pass** and Senator Staton seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

SR 295 DO PASS

SR 431 (Mullis, 53rd) **Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails; designate**

Chairman Mullis presented a committee substitute of the resolution. The legislation designates Georgia Civil War Heritage Trails.

Senator Heath moved that **SR 431 Do pass by Substitute**, and Senator Douglas seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

SR 431 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

SR 176 (Mullis, 53rd) **James H. Chandler, Jr. Memorial Intersection; dedicate**

Chairman Mullis presented a committee substitute of the resolution. The legislation combines all road and bridge dedication resolutions into one resolution. Included in the new SR 176 are SR 82, SR 175, SR 338, SR 339, and SR 507.

Senator Douglas moved that **SR 176 Do pass by Substitute**, and Senator Steve Thompson seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

SR 176 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 2:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Mullis 53rd, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

March 18, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on March 18, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. Members present included Senators Jackson of the 24th Secretary, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio, Staton of the 18th, and Thompson of the 33rd.

Chairman Mullis announced that he was moving HR 336, a road dedication bill, into the Roads & Bridges Subcommittee for further attention.

HB 440 (Anderson, 117th) ***Public utility and transportation; state government endorsed
rideshare programs; provisions***

Representative Anderson presented the bill. The legislation provides that rideshare programs (vanpools and buses) are not considered private carriers. Senator Bill Jackson will serve as the Senate sponsor.

Senator Steve Thompson moved that **HB 440 Do Pass** and Senator Jackson seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

HB 440 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 1:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Bill Jackson 24th, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Transportation Committee**

March 25, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on March 25, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 2:14 p.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Jackson of the 24th Secretary, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, and Seay of the 34th.

HB 101 (Hamilton, 23rd) *Advertising; transit agencies' vehicles and facilities; limit prohibitions*

Chairman Mullis presented a committee substitute of the bill and will serve as the Senate sponsor. The legislation authorizes transit agencies to place commercial advertisements on or in vehicles or facilities; and authorizes local governments to remove or leave asbestos pipes if in right of way. Legislative Counsel attached a note stating that this bill may be in violation of the "one subject matter" rule.

Senator Goggans moved that **HB 101 Do Pass By Substitute** and Senator Seay seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

HB 101 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Bill Jackson 24th, Secretary

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

Minutes of the Senate Transportation Committee

March 27, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on March 27, 2009 in Room 450 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Douglas of the 17th, Heath of the 31st Ex-Officio, Seay of the 34th, Stoner of the 6th, and Tolleson of the 20th.

HB 397 (Burns, 157th) *Brakes; surge brakes; update certain provisions*

Representative Burns presented a committee substitute of the bill and Chairman Mullis will serve as the Senate sponsor. The legislation clarifies the definition of “surge brakes” and the conditions and limitations in which they can be used by trailers and semi-trailers; tractor trailers carrying loose bulk materials may obtain a \$75 permit to deviate from inner-bridge requirements.

Senator Heath moved that **HB 397 Do Pass By Substitute** and Senator Seay seconded. The bill passed unanimously.

HB 397 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

HR 336 (Everson, 106th) *CPL Jonathan Ryan Ayers Memorial Interchange; dedicate*

Representative Everson presented a committee substitute of the resolution and Chairman Mullis will serve as the Senate sponsor. The legislation combines all road and bridge dedications into one resolution. Included in the new HR 336 are House Resolutions 26, 31, 163, 167, 241, 242, 317, 441, 584, and Senate Resolution 567. Also included are two dedications for the Honorable Jack Hays Morgan of Newton County and Lamar B. Hayes of Mansfield on behalf of Senator Douglas of the 17th.

Senator Douglas moved that **HR 336 Do Pass By Substitute** and Senator Heath seconded. The resolution passed unanimously.

HR 336 DO PASS BY SUBSTITUTE

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 9:22 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Mullis 53rd, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

**Minutes of the
Senate Transportation Committee**

March 30, 2009

A meeting of the Senate Transportation Committee was held on March 30, 2009 in Room Mezz 1 of the Capitol. Chairman Mullis called the meeting to order at 10:32 a.m. Members present included Senators Pearson of the 51st Vice-Chair, Douglas of the 17th, Goggans of the 7th Ex-Officio, Seay of the 34th, and Stoner of the 6th.

SR 690 (Stoner, 6th) *Transportation, Georgia Dept. of; request to develop a state rail plan*

Senator Stoner presented the resolution. The legislation requests that the Georgia Department of Transportation develop a state rail plan.

Senator Seay moved that **SR 690 Do Pass** and Senator Goggans seconded. The resolution passed with one nay vote from Senator Pearson.

SR 690 DO PASS

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by the Chairman at 10:34 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Senator Jeff Mullis 53rd, Chairman

/s/ Debra Charnote, Recording Secretary

July 15, 2009

Honorable Bob Ewing
Secretary of the Senate
State Capitol
Room 353
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Mr. Ewing:

Along with the minutes of the **Senate Transportation Committee**, I am returning the following Bills and Resolutions:

<u>SB 18</u>	<u>SR 43</u>	<u>SR 567</u>
<u>SB 22</u>	<u>SR 82</u>	
<u>SB 32</u>	<u>SR 90</u>	
<u>SB 40</u>	<u>SR 175</u>	
<u>SB 107</u>	<u>SR 338</u>	
<u>SB 187</u>	<u>SR 339</u>	
<u>SB 285</u>	<u>SR 507</u>	

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Debra Charnote
Recording Secretary
Senate Transportation Committee

Senate Transportation Subcommittees 2009

Airports & Seaports

Sen. Cecil Staton, Sub-Committee Chair

Sen. Chip Pearson, Member
Sen. Valencia Seay, Member
Sen. Ross Tolleson, Member
Sen. Jeff Mullis, Ex-Officio

Intermodal, Rail & Transit

Sen. Doug Stoner, Sub-Committee Chair

Sen. Kasim Reed, Member
Sen. Cecil Staton, Member
Sen. Judson Hill, Ex-Officio
Sen. Jeff Mullis, Ex-Officio

Roads & Bridges

Sen. John Douglas, Sub-Committee Chair

Sen. Bill Jackson, Member
Sen. Steve Thompson, Member
Sen. Greg Goggans, Ex-Officio
Sen. Bill Heath, Ex-Officio
Sen. Jeff Mullis, Ex-Officio